



Soccer News



The Official Organ of
VICTORIAN AMATEUR SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Edited by V. J. M. Dixon.

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AT PRACTICE



RALPH WHITE, centre-half of Sandringham City, practices kicking a still ball. Sandringham are featured in this week's article, "Know Your Club".



Editorial

All communications re "Soccer News" must be sent to the Editor, V. J. M. Dixon, 40 Beach Road, Hampton.



The last two Editorials have been written in bed at home. This one comes from Heidelberg Hospital—so we progress. If next week's number should show signs of being scorched, readers may surmise that we have moved to Springvale.

So Sandringham have at last met their Waterloo in a League game. Their writing was on the wall, as injuries were thinning the side and reserves are not strong enough, and against Sunshine they lost star inside-forward, Joe Bambro, with a fractured jaw and bruised ribs early in the game. This, however, does not detract from Sunshine's effort in being the first team to lower their colors.

Their defeat causes a drop for Sandringham to fourth place, while Box Hill and South Yarra move to the top with 9 points each, the former having a game in hand which places them in a strong position. Moreland, with a good win over Footscray, have at last moved from the bottom place, but they will need many more victories to avoid relegation, which Hakoah seem set for.

In the Second Division South Melbourne continue on their winning way, closely followed by Juventus, Preston and Yallourn. Competition for promotion to the First Division is going to be very keen.

Navy and JUST once more won in the Third Division (South) and are still unbeaten. Sufficient results are not to hand at the time of writing from the Third Division (North). If these teams do not mind the fines which will be imposed on them for not sending in results, at least they might consider the good of the game and endeavor to make public the information required to keep up interest in soccer.

To refer back to injuries being received by many star players: It is to be hoped that players whose individual skill enables them to show us the finer arts of the game are not going to suffer from the heavy-handed and robust tackling of less skilful players. This play, although it may not necessarily be unfair, is not going to draw the attendance of spectators who go to watch an exhibition of good football. No doubt, too, the State selectors view with some alarm the growing number of players on the injured list.

More heavy parties took place last week-end, when enthusiasts sat up to the early hours of Sunday morning to listen to the English Cup Final at Wembley. I gather they had as good a night as the lads did a few weeks back when the Scots went down to the Sassenachs at Hampden Par. These broadcasts are a great help to those folk who sadly miss their old home team, but let us point out that there are some very good teams here in Melbourne and to those unattached enthusiasts who are now permanently domiciled in Melbourne, we say: "Buy a membership card from your local club and when the box comes around dig a bit deeper and put silver coins in it and so help your club to put on a better show for you so that you will not then be quite so homesick for the 'Old Dart.'"

[Although the Editor is cheerfully carrying on with the paper from his bed in hospital, he is at the same time suffering from a very painful complaint, and it may be some weeks before he is really fit again. We are sure that all readers of "Soccer News" will join with his many friends in wishing him a speedy and complete return to health, in order that he may once again watch the only game of "Football."—"Soccer News" Committee.]

"INCIDENTS" NOT CONFINED TO VICTORIA OR TO "NATIONAL" TEAMS

(By "Soccer News" Special Correspondent)

Considerable publicity has been given in some daily and weekly papers to the unfortunate occurrence at Middle Park on April 22 between Hakoah and Park Rangers. Elsewhere in this paper is a featured article entitled, "Mind Your Spectators," while several letters to the Editor regarding these incidents have been received, which we regret have not been printed through lack of space.

Even prior to the Victorian team's great display against Yugo-Slavia last season, it was the stated opinion of "Soccer News" that Victoria was the leading soccer State in Australia. Whilst fully agreeing that the two incidents which have occurred this season (both involving teams of foreign origin) have done nothing to help the game, this paper has no hesitation in stating that it is our firm contention that the League Management Committee is a very competent body, and given full support by the clubs and spectators, is fully capable of taking such action as is necessary to ensure that soccer in this State is run on the best traditional lines of the game. It has already shown this by its prompt action in the case of the George Cross team.

In order to support its opinion stated above, "Soccer News" reprints below an extract from the sporting section of the Sydney Sunday "Truth," offering only the comment that New South Wales, which for years has claimed to be the leading soccer State, also has similar troubles, except that in their case the teams and spectators involved were not of foreign origin, but—AUSTRALIAN:

"SOCCER BRAWL WAS DISGRACE TO CODE"

"A brilliant exhibition of soccer at Lambert Park yesterday, between Leichhardt and Metters, was spoilt by one of the most disgraceful brawls ever witnessed on a football field, and international centre, Frank Parsons, firstly, was carried off the field, then sent off, and finally admitted to Lewisham Hospital for observation.

"Parsons had left the field with a head injury, but returned to the game. Obviously dazed, Parsons brought Wallace down in a terrific, apparently illegal tackle, and was sent off the field. He collapsed in the dressing-room and was rushed to Lewisham Hospital with possible concussion, and admitted for observation.

"Tempers became frayed, and, within a few minutes interstate cricketer, Bob Madden (Metters), and "Jock" McMahon started throwing punches. McMahon's brother, Alby, raced across from the opposite wing and started to punch Madden. Then it was on! Spectators rushed on to the field and started swinging punches also. Players from both sides separated the brawlers and referee H. McLeod ordered the two McMahons and Madden off the field. Spectators and players swarmed around the dressing-room after the game and the referee was given police protection.

"Playing with only eight men, Leichhardt swarmed the Metters goal, and in the last minute of the game Ridley headed a great goal from a perfectly placed free-kick by Robertson, to win the game for Leichhardt. The final scores were 1-nil in Leichhardt's favor, but a draw would have satisfied the most biased partisan."

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

As the clubs have now played one-third of their fixtures in the various Leagues, it may be of interest to review the positions of several teams.

In the First Division, Box Hill has climbed to the top with a match in hand. Opponents will be wondering how Box Hill manage to have four forwards attacking most of the time. For the answer I suggest that the team coaching is responsible.

South Yarra, Sunshine United and Sandringham City can be satisfied with their present positions, but Footscray City, Moreland and Hakoah will have to fight for points from now on.

Second Division leaders, South Melbourne, are evidently of the opinion that having missed promotion last year they are not going to make the same mistake twice. Yallourn, Preston and Juventus are doing well and Juventus are to be congratulated in proving that their promotion last season was well deserved. Heidelberg and University must start to gather the points, but University are noted for their slow start, and other teams may find the truth of that statement later in the season.

The Third Division (North) leaders, White Eagles and Fifers, may think they are well on top, but are advised to watch Geelong Celtic.

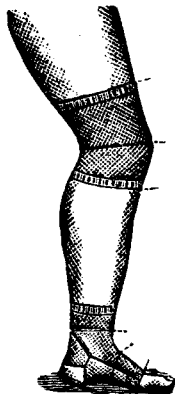
JUST lead the Third Division (South), but only on goal average from Flinders Naval Depot. The Navy boys had a bad break when Macedonians scratched their match and then drew out of the League. It will be interesting to see if Macedonians are permitted to have a team next year in the League.

First Division Reserves leaders, Park Rangers, are merely following their performance of last year, and will be hard to displace, but perhaps Sandringham City think otherwise.

In the Second Division Reserves, Yallourn are well ahead and the indication is that the First team will have no worries when injuries come along. Preston are keeping well to the fore also.

The Third Division Reserve teams are to be complimented for turning out every week as the League has been sadly disorganised owing to teams dropping out in higher Divisions and the necessary alterations having to be made.

Perhaps there will be some alterations when the first round of matches is completed on May 20, but the writer would not be foolish enough to make any prophecies at this stage. Time alone will tell.



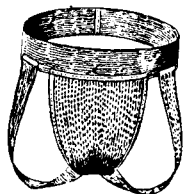
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GIPPSLAND GLEANINGS

Latrobe Valley is far more advanced than your correspondent would have you believe. The influx of players is very wide spread. Morwell, Traralgon and other places around have a large number of men awaiting some move towards organised play.

Maryvale Paper Mill has a team already formed. Yallourn North has two teams in training. S.E.C. and Jennings camps at Morwell have men kicking the ball around without organisation. The Western Camp, Yallourn, has at least one team, and a number of otherwise interested players.

The set-up as it now stands needs some central body to help them. Yallourn Club, the father of soccer here, does not feel inclined to take the lead. Apparently they are afraid that a league here would interfere with their metropolitan programme.

A meeting was proposed to form the league this year. Yallourn vetoed this, insisting that the teams be formed first. There are at present three, and with a team from Yallourn, that would be four. Migrants could form their own teams, if they had a league to enter.

As correspondent for Maryvale, I can quote the feelings of my club. They want opposition, organised opposition. They feel that until a league is formed clubs will have no incentive for serious training. Also, that organised play will attract more recruits than friendly matches.—J. FINDLEY, Traralgon.

* * *

MIND YOUR SPECTATORS!

By RICHARD DREYFUS

After last week's discussion on the bad state of some grounds and their danger to players, another problem, which must be solved effectively and immediately, has come up.

Our code of soccer is an exciting one—both for those taking an active part in the game itself and for those on the side-lines watching.

After being a spectator in the match between Park Rangers and Hakoah at Middle Park two weeks ago, I feel a solemn warning must go out to all clubs to MIND THEIR SPECTATORS.

Let me describe briefly what took place at this First Division match. Soon after the beginning, the referee awarded a penalty to the home team, the Rangers. However, the very large gallery, most of whom appeared to be Hakoah supporters, seemed to disagree vitally with the ref's. decision. Loud boos and hoots echoed over the ground. A little time later he spoke to a Hakoah player. More boos.

Soon after half-time, a Rangers forward and a Hakoah back came into collision and blows were exchanged. Spectators then rushed on to the ground.

Here is the point of this story: The playing area was roped off on one side only. No officials and few sensible people made any attempt to stop these "hot-heads," some of whom were just looking for a fight. Had it not been for players of both sides, who prevented a brawl, a very ugly scene could easily have developed. As it was, many old soccer hands expressed their disgust with what happened.

Now that our First Division games draw galleries of sometimes well over 1000, all grounds MUST be roped off effectively—not only on one side, but right around the rectangle. Furthermore, a minimum of four club officials of the home side should stand on the inside of this rope and order off immediately anyone attempting to enter underneath the barrier.

I am fully aware that an excited, out-of-hand crowd can not be held back, however many policemen or officials are in attendance—or how strong the barrier. It is a well-known fact that in South America spectators regularly "storm" the ground in thousands. But we in Australia really should know better than that.

To afford a minimum of protection to both players and the referee, roping-off at all grounds at which large crowds are expected is a must. Committeemen and players—see it is done before your next match.

Pertinent Pars.

EVERYONE IN SOCCER

Should know of the gallant effort of Dick Dixon in continuing to edit this paper whilst still a very sick man in Heidelberg Hospital. Dick's fortitude and desire to give soccer his best is something that is inspiring. We are all proud of you, Dick, and hope you make a speedy recovery.

Little man with the big reputation out Coburg way is secretary Ray Carlsen. Whispered you're a beaut to moan, Ray. Anyway, everyone's agreed you do a fine job in keeping the boys going.

WELCOME

Newcomer to Vic. Referees' Association is Bob Ferrier. Instant decisions given with firmness and authority indicate who's in charge, both to player and spectator alike. Now a P.M.F. officer, Bob represented N.S.W. as a Schoolboy.

WHO'LL CAP THIS?

Proudest claim of Leeds United (England) is that in 25 years, they have never had a man sent off the field. Can any club in Victoria approach that record or anything like it?

ONE OF THE BEST

Harry Ashworth started his soccer career with Graham Street State School as a centre-half. He has come a long way since then. He even impressed a competent critic the day 8 goals went in against him.

THINK THIS ONE OVER

In 1939 we had 14 Schoolboy teams. In 1950 we have 12 Schoolboy teams. All connected with the game must share the blame over these 11 years of wasted opportunity. Our grand game deserves a better future.

A "VETERAN" SHOWS HOW

"Jock" Taylor, Sunshine right-half, has confused the critics who used that term "too old." Discarded by selectors of two clubs since the war, he is proving that experience counts.

FOR THE POWERS THAT BE

Making one draw for the entire Dockerty Cup competition should be scrapped. The draw for each round is full of interest and soccer folk like it best that way.

CORIO CARTOONIST CLICKS

Excellent cartoons by "Sailor" have drawn much praise. Capable artist is versatile Frank McGarry, of Geelong Celtic. More of them, and Sam Wells and Edema had better look out!

QUIZ

A coach of a First Division team, and a coach of a Second Division team played together for Victoria v. India at the M.C.G. on August 23, 1938. Who are they?

Generous donation by Tom Beddoes, South Yarra's hard-working committee-man, played no small part in their incursion into Third Division (North). A member of the Soccer Council, Tom is one of our newer administrators and does a fine job.

KNOW YOUR CLUBS—6

SANDRINGHAM CITY

In some quarters, Sandringham has been described as the club which was born with a silver spoon in its mouth. This is because of the reception and assistance accorded to them by the Sandringham City Council. But what may not be generally recognised is the amount of work put into the club by the founders in order to interest Sandringham Council in the club.

Sandringham City Soccer Club was formed only 18 months ago, and in the six months before the 1949 season opened, enormous strides were made. One of the best grounds in Victoria, with two pitches, was obtained, and £400 spent on it — the club spending half that sum and the Council the other half.

To obtain this money big demands were made on local residents, and chief among those who did this work were Messrs. Cecil Norford (late of the Granville, N.S.W. Club), and Laurie Taylor (late of Brighton). Secretary of the club is Don Bingham (late of Brighton), who has done a very good job, whilst treasurer is Roy Bennett (late of Bradford). To Mr. J. McLennan, retiring president, much credit must be given for planning and seeing that the club's long-term policy was carried out.

On the Junior side, Sandringham is lucky in having Norm. Shingles — well-known Junior coach — whose efforts on behalf of Junior soccer are known to all enthusiasts.

Sandringham's success on the playing pitch can be laid at the door of Ralph White who, coming to the club shortly after its inception, soon became both captain and coach, and has put them on modern lines. Feature of this was his immediate insistence on the third-back style of play, which has now become standard in all the more progressive Victorian sides.

Prominent among the players are Ronnie Walker (right-half), who has played his best football since he joined Sandringham, Jack Davis (right-back), one of the best backs in Victoria (soon to be tried in State trials), and Roger Parvin, centre-forward this season. Parvin played all last season for Sandringham at inside-right, and then as far as the daily Press went, got lost until the beginning of this season, when he was hailed by one leading writer as a newcomer from overseas!

Mention must also be made of the Sandringham right-wing, Bambro (inside-right), and Wilson (outside-right). Newcomers this season, these lads have already made a name for themselves and have received recognition by a State trial shortly, so that with Davis and White, Sandringham will have four players the first trial. Not bad for an 18-months-old club.

Only weakness of the club is a shortage of good reserves, and any serious injuries to the first team are likely to affect their high position in the League.

NEXT WEEK: South Melbourne United.

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CLUB JOTTINGS

PRESTON

On Monday, April 24, the club held a very successful film show. Invitations sent to neighboring Junior clubs were readily accepted and a large number of Schoolboys turned up. The coaching films were masterpieces of visual education, whilst the film, "The Great Game," was a full explanation of why we rate Soccer as the greatest spectacle of all time. Preston believes in catching its players young. Many of the Under 14's are well under 11 and still attend primary schools. These lads are some of the keenest club members, sometime cycling many miles just to train.

After a whirlwind start, the tide of fortune has turned against the Senior side. The departure of Hughie Wilson and Frank Buckley for other climes seems to have created quite a gap in the team. At the moment, club officials are scouring the northern suburbs for effective substitutes. And, by the way, does Mr. Wilson know that a Second Division exists in Victorian soccer?

LOCAL DERBY BY SOUTH MELBOURNE SCHOOLBOY TEAMS

At Middle Park, last Saturday morning, the match of the year, as far as the South Melbourne Schoolboys are concerned, was played between the "A" and the "B" teams of the South Melbourne club. Players of both teams have been looking forward to this match from the commencement of the season, and from a spectator's point of view, it was a match well worth seeing. Friendly rivalry exists between the two teams, and both teams are to be commended for a job well



So you think I should bury it, eh . . . ?

BOX HILL ON TOP

Box Hill, by beating Park Rangers, and with Sandringham losing and South Yarra only drawing, go to top of the League by virtue of better goal average over South Yarra. The Hillmen will take some shifting from that position, especially if they produce the form they did on Saturday, combining well in every department. The first half was played at a very fast pace and the ball was swung from end to end, but the Hillmen were playing much better soccer, and finding each other with short and long ground passes. After a series of passes McDonald scored the Hill's first goal, but he missed a couple of easy ones. The Rangers made a determined attack and were unlucky to see B. Nicholson kick off the goal line. The second half saw Box Hill attacking for three-quarters of the half and adding two more goals, both by J. Neil. Park Rangers missed a penalty.

It was a great sporting game and was ably refereed.

Box Hill Second and Third teams both lost; the Under 19's won, 6-1; the Under 16's drew (no score). A great performance was put up by our under 14's who were only able to get eight boys to Preston through our truck breaking down, but held Preston to goalless draw.

Box Hill will be holding dances in the Box Hill Town Hall on Saturday, May 20, May 27, and June 3, and we would like to see members of other clubs there.

SANDRINGHAM CITY

In a hard and vigorous game at Hampton, Sandringham, with a weakened team, could not pace it with Sunshine and went down to the tune of 4 goals to 1.

In one of the hardest knocks ever given on a soccer field, Joe Bambro was knocked cold, and received a double fracture of the jaw and bruised ribs. He will be out of action for some weeks. Joe is to be admired for the way he came back on the field, but he didn't know what he was doing.

Our reserve goalie gave a brilliant exhibition between the sticks and will be hard to replace. Good work, Jim Mackie.

Much credit to City's good work this year must be given to team manager, Cal O'Donnell, and team trainer, George Rogers, who are both very popular with the boys. The Reserve team, with a weakened team, must be commended on playing a draw and much credit must be given to Jack Anderson, who made a welcome comeback.

Supporters, please note. Flinders Naval Depot trip has been put back a week to Sunday, May 21. Also, Saturday, May 13, there will be a Crazy Whist night at Mrs. McLennan's house, 40 Crisp Street, Hampton. All club members welcome. Roll up and support this generous offer of the Macs.

JUVENTUS SOCCER CLUB NEWS

All three Juventus teams had successful encounters last Saturday, each team winning by comfortable margins. The Senior team beat Ringwood by 4-1; the Reserve team defeated Ringwood by 7-0, and Juventus Juniors won out against Ringwood, 2-0. The Seniors and Juniors played at home and Reserves at Ringwood. The first match, played at Royal Park, was won quite easily by the Juniors, who showed a clean pair of heels to the Ringwood team. Best players for the home side were Bevilagua, Tieppo and Vangelista. The Seniors were too fast and systematic for Ringwood and showed by their form that they will be a hard nut to crack by any Second Division team.

The side was ably captained by the new skipper, Francesconi, who did yeomen service in defence, while Carollo was prominent in most of the attacks. Best of the others were Martini and Manzi.

The visiting team at Ringwood had very little opposition and never looked like losing, although Ringwood played one man short and put up a very game display. The margin would have been even greater had it not been for the stout defence of the home team's goalkeeper.

SOUTH MELBOURNE RESERVES WIN AGAINST HEIDELBERG

The Reserve team of South Melbourne United had a comfortable win against the Heidelberg Reserves team by 7 goals to nil at Heidelberg on Saturday. Good cohesive football was played by South, which proved too strong for the home team. The score might have been greater for South, but for the fine defensive football of the Heidelberg full-backs. Goal scorers were: Rigby (4), Trainer (2), Moxham (1).

Tomorrow, Sunday, at Middle Park, the South Melbourne Reserve team will play a social match against a Danish Ship team. This game is scheduled to commence at 2.45 p.m.

COBURG SOCCER CLUB

Coburg Soccer Club had three victories on Saturday, Seniors defeating International Harvesters; Juniors defeating Preston, and the Schoolboys defeating Brighton. Best players for Seniors were M. Toomey in goal, Peebles and Misty. The Seniors went by bus to Geelong. The sunshine made the day's outing a most enjoyable one, everybody, including supporters, made it a real picnic, and lunch was enjoyed at the "local." Because the Reserve team has had only one game this season, owing to fixtures being cancelled, etc., the committee has arranged for a picnic to Warrandyte on Sunday, May 6—Reserves to play Seniors. The ground, hall, and 2 buses have been booked for this outing, and we are looking forward to a good day's fun.

We have moved the playing area at Coburg further up, as the Council intends to top dress the lower end. This will give us a better ground next season. The other end will be top dressed later. We are also making headway for a shower-room, and ashes have been spread on the main path to the pavilion. Good work is being done by all those interested, and perhaps next season will see the club in a better position to make the grade. The building up of a club takes initiative and energy and it is only by these efforts soccer will get to the fore

Save our Native Fauna No. 5



Two mammals alone in the world lay eggs, thus providing the scientist's "missing link" with the lower animals. Both are Australian: the Platypus is one, and the other is the Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) which wanders in the open forest in search of ants and termites. It is protected by a coat of prickles superficially like those of the Porcupine to which, however, it is not related. A full grown specimen may weigh four or five pounds; but its mouth is less than half an inch wide, and toothless. It has to catch insects almost constantly with its long sticky tongue to survive. It has stout claws for breaking open ant nests.

(Advertisement of Carlton & United Breweries Ltd., Makers of Victoria Bitter, a healthful beverage).

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY v. PRESTON T.S.O.B.

This game was played at Princes Park in brilliant sunshine. "Shop" played for a considerable time with 10 men, and this disrupted the forward line greatly. Even so, Preston's superiority in positional play was marked, the ball control of Bracewell and Smithy being delightful to watch. Preston went ahead in the 14th minute, and should have increased their lead several times before the interval, Leece failing to connect with at least three crosses from the left. Gray, in the home team goal, was very safe, and Foxcroft, at left full-back was solid. "Shop" forward line was re-organised at the resumption, and Deacon made several thrusts down the middle, finally scoring with a solo effort after the visitors had pressed hard unsuccessfully for 20 minutes or so, their second goal coming through a momentary lapse of the "Shop" defence. With the score 2-1 in Preston's favor, the home team appeared re-vitalised, and were unlucky not to equalise. Play was very even towards the end, but the whistle blew with Preston good winners. Both goalkeepers were in fine form as were the respective defences, Alvey, Foxcroft ("Shop"), Buff and Heland (Preston) outstanding.

MORELAND SOCCER CLUB

The committee of this club would like to express their sympathies towards the numerous players on the injured list, namely, Jim Fairweather, Jock Russell, John Strang, Les Gilbert and Bill Carson. We sincerely hope all these players will be back in action shortly. We would also like to extend our congratulations to J. Kennedy, H. Grix and R. Hardman on their selection for the State Trial.

The social committee reports that a dance will be held in the Northcote Scout Hall on May 13, and a trip to Adelaide on June 23.

Our Reserve team is coming along well under the capable hands of J. Strang, R. McDonald and J. Russell and are starting to build into a team of promise. Keep trying lads, you'll soon be getting the results we want.

It is rumoured in the club that Jim Fairweather sprained his ankle tripping over a roll of notes around his new home. Query? Who was most surprised when a certain goalkeeper headed a goal. R. Heald, J. Murray, S. Scates noted showing good form for Reserves. State selectors appear to have overlooked Eric Heath, full-back, who is as good as any in the State. Two new players who showed good form on Saturday were Jim Sharp and Bob Greenslade, who comes from Yallourn each week. Improvement in play is noticeable since Les Gilbert took over coaching.

MIGRANTS AND THEIR PLACE IN SOCCER

Sir.—One opens their house to guests and expects the company to comply with all the rules of etiquette. In so doing, all must fraternise and no cliques must form.

The Australian soccer world has pleasure in playing host to and welcoming all migrants no matter where they come from. Soccer and the fostering of the same are predominant features of our house. Therefore, I deplore the forming of national and religious groups in our midst, which are not fostering soccer as it should be. Indeed, these groups are on their way to cause dissension among themselves and with their hosts.

Soccer would be bigger and better if those clubs concerned were to immediately disband and distribute themselves among the clubs existing here on their arrival. There are talented players in their ranks, but whilst they stay there they will never fit into the Australian way of life, and will therefore miss much of the value of friendship and the happy companionship of their host of well-wishers.

If readers consider this provocative, then let them ponder the issues. We have had one deplorable incident, let's not have any more, and let's assure that it won't happen again.

The only way to do that is to have these boys playing with us, not against us. I feel that our Council and Association have a great responsibility in this matter, but I am sure they can handle it.

Why not a monster soccer meeting in the city for all to talk these and other things over. I for one would be pleased to put my views to such a meeting.—

L. McLENNAN.

FIFERS SOCCER CLUB

Last week's game against Williamstown exposed once again the greatest bogey a team can have. After leading 3-0, a feeling of laziness and security crept over the team, allowing the home team to make a couple of swift advances and snatch two quick goals. The second came just "on time," otherwise a different tale might have to be written.

Today sees our first ever journey to Geelong to play Celtic. We'll be all out to make a good impression. Best of luck, boys, and we hope to see good football from both teams.

Mark up Saturday, May 13, as our next dance and social evening. Same place, same time.

Reserves News: Sunday afternoons always reserved for coaching and practice; Monday evenings for talks and training. 7.30 is the time, so let's see you there in force.

COBURG

Coburg defeated Royal Caledonians 1-0. A keen struggle was fought for the honors. Mick Lormey was outstanding in goal for Coburg; also Royal Caledonians' goal-keeper put up a remarkable performance, this kept the score to the low margin.

Juniors went to Yallourn and were defeated 3-0 by the home team, whose combination was far superior to Coburg's. Schoolboys won 2-1 against Preston. Huckville, Lormey, Stewart, were outstanding among the boys.

I wish to congratulate Yallourn on their fine soccer grounds; also the way they are marked out; and thanks for the "cuppa."

Through your paper I wish it to be known that we, the Coburg Soccer Club, want coaches to train the lads, so what about it, you Coburg soccerites? It's all right standing on the line giving advice. What about joining the club, and helping it along?

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SOCCER STOPS

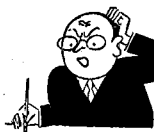
Genuine English round stops **1/- doz.**

MELBOURNE SPORTS DEPOT

55 Elizabeth Street and 255 Swanston Street, Melb. MU 7244

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers are invited to send along queries, suggestions, etc., to the Editor. All will be given appropriate consideration.



Sir,—During Arsenal's 1949 tour of Brazil, the following article appeared in a Brazilian paper, which, to my mind, would prove amusing to your readers:—

"WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE ?

"The English player has his legs so well protected that they resemble blown-up tyres, but the Brazilian plays with his stockings fallen down to his ankles most of the time. . . The Englishman considers a player that dribbles three times successfully a nuisance; the Brazilian considers him victorious. . . In English football, discipline comes first and the players last; in Brazil the players come first and the discipline last. . . After a game, the English player has some tea and then goes to bed, so as to be in shape for a round of golf on the following day; everybody knows what the Brazilian players does. . . . When the English player loses his calm, he generally uses his feet and sometimes his body; the Brazilian uses his fist. . . The Englishman goes to the field disposed either to win or lose; the Brazilian either to win—or to shame the referee."

Also, let me congratulate you for the improvement in "Soccer News" this year. It makes me feel soccer is really getting somewhere these days.—Yours faithfully, FRANK WERTHER (Hakoah J.R.C.).

Sir,—In reply to the suggestion of Mr. P. Searle re Soccer Library, it might interest you to know that such an idea is already under way at Preston, and we received our first batch of instructional books from England two weeks ago. Another consignment of 40 is on its way. These books range in price from 2/- to 15/-, which places them outside the reach of the average junior, but under our library idea, any book shall be available to any boy on request. Accompanying the next batch of books will also be coaching charts for lecturing purposes. We also hope in the near future to purchase from the same source (Educational Productions Ltd. of England) a set of coaching film loops. This firm has produced a very fine instructional book which can be obtained at our leading Sports stores. This book, "Know the Game" (2/-) should be in the possession of every School-boy and Junior. Mrs. J. G. Bramley, one of the directors of this firm, is an Australian, and has been most helpful to us in obtaining a selection of suitable books.—Yours, etc., A. CLARK.

Sir,—We journeyed to Lilydale yesterday, arriving there at 2.15 p.m. and stayed till 3.30 p.m., but we could not find the soccer ground, consequently did not play. Maybe there is some mistake in the Fixtures Book.—Yours, etc., SECRETARY WHITE EAGLES.

[Royal Caledonian's is at Princes Park, Carlton, about 100 yards north of Carlton Football Ground, on the same side of the road. To get there, take a Brunswick or North Coburg tram in Elizabeth Street.—Editor.]

Sir,—With a view to extending the sale of "Soccer News," I suggest a competition of "Find the Ball," say, one of the matches played last year, and then have the ball erased and let all buyers of "Soccer News" try to find the position of the missing ball; or, better still, have the competition in the "Argus" or "Age." To sell more copies of "Soccer News" have an entry form printed in each issue of "Soccer News," which should increase the number of subscribers rapidly. Trusting this will meet with your approval.—Yours, etc., J. W. SMILES.

JUNIOR SECTION

NEXT MEETING OF JUNIOR ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the Junior Association is to be held at the Temperance Hall (Savoy Theatre Buildings), Russell Street, Melbourne, on Monday, May 15, commencing at 8 p.m.

South Yarra retained its leadership of the "A" Section of the Under 19 Division after last Saturday's matches, and are still three points clear of their nearest opponents, Box Hill and Sunshine United.

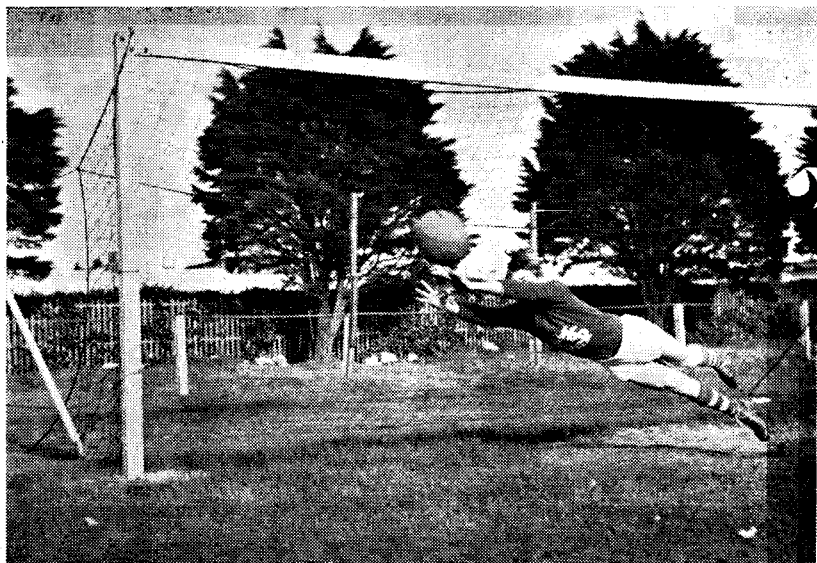
In the "B" Section of this Division, Preston suffered its second defeat of the season, and thus lost the leadership of the section to Yallourn, who, playing one game less than Preston, are so far undefeated. Teams to improve their position on the ladder in this division after last Saturday's games, were, Coburg, who moved from fifth to third; South Melbourne United from seventh to fourth, and Juventus from eighth to sixth.

In the Under 16 Division, Northcote retained its two-point advantage at head of the premiership ladder over Brighton, whilst South Melbourne United took third position from Sandringham City. South Yarra also improved its position, moving from second last position to seventh.

In the Under 14 Schoolboy Grade, the local derby between Sunshine United and Western Suburbs, caused a complete reversal of the three leading teams. Sunshine United, through its defeat, lost the leadership of this section to the other local Sunshine team, Western Suburbs, whilst Box Hill's sharing of the points with Preston, made no difference to their position of second place. Sandringham City's win against Bentleigh brought them from tenth to seventh place.

In the Under 16 Division today, interest will be centred on the four leading teams, in which the two leading teams, Northcote and Brighton, will meet, and the third and fourth teams, South Melbourne and Sandringham, will meet.

In the Under 14 Division, Sunshine United (third) will be all out to regain some of its lost prestige against Box Hill (second). This match is to be played at Box Hill today, and will create some interest amongst our Schoolboy enthusiasts. South Melbourne United "A" team, which has considerably improved its position on the ladder in their last three games, and are now running fifth, will be all out to defeat the Division leaders, Western Suburbs, at Sunshine.



THE ABOVE PICTURE of South Melbourne United's Junior goal-keeper diving for a hot shot, shows that the locally-trained boys, with good coaching make excellent goalies.

LEARN FROM VICTORIA'S STARS

6—The Centre-Forward

By FRANK ATHERTON.

As the centre-forward is goal-getter number one for the side, it needs no emphasis that he must be able to kick with either foot from whatever angle presents itself. He must be an adept at heading DOWN into the goal — not UP over the bar.

Many young, potential centre-forwards find that they can kick well with their natural foot, but not so well with the other. Cure this by getting onto the field with a sandshoe on the good foot and a football boot on the other, and kicking away at the ball until it becomes second nature to use both feet.

A successful centre-forward must be an expert at the art of snap-shooting. This can be attained by constant practice in kicking a ball hard against a wall, and hitting it with either foot as it rebounds. Don't pause at all during this practice, but keep the ball moving for stretches of 15 minutes.

The best goal-scoring shots are those which travel along the ground. To practice these 'daisy-cutters' put a rope across the goal, three feet from the ground. Then concentrate upon getting the ball under the rope.

Good ball-control is an essential for all soccer players, and can only be acquired by long and constant practice. One way of doing this is placing five or six cricket stumps in a line, two yards apart, and dribbling the ball up and down, in and out of them. Try it slowly at first, increasing your speed as you improve. Keep the ball as close to the stumps as possible while you are dribbling.

A novel way of improving heading is for two or four men to stand on either side of a tennis net and play tennis by heading the ball backwards and forwards. This game serves the purpose of making a man head the ball better and more quickly, since it comes at the same speeds and angles as he would get it in an actual match.

"Dixie" Dean, and more recently, Tommy Lanton, could head a ball as hard as the average player can kick it.

As in every other position, to become a good centre-forward requires constant practice. Keep practising and remember, soccer stars aren't born, they become famous only by constant training.

[Frank Atherton has recently arrived in this country from England, and is centre-forward for the Geelong Celtic Club, which is successfully flying the soccer flag in those parts.—Editor.]

* BRIGHTON (Under 14's) *

Brighton Under 14 defeated Highbury Under 14, six goals to one. Highbury, which is a comparatively new team, fought gamely against the more experienced Brighton boys. Brighton scorers were:—Crawley 4, Ballot 2. The Highbury centre-forward showed great determination in getting Highbury's only goal.

METTERS

In the Under 19 Section "B" game between Metters and Moorabbin at North Footscray, Metters surprised themselves in the first half, when they had a four-goal lead against the Dominoes. Moorabbin's weakness lay in the back line lying too far up field and too far apart. Langley, Metters' centre-forward, who found the net on three occasions, was pulled up quite a number of times for off-side play, and N. Kelly's penalty kick was a gift to the Dominoes' goal-keeper. He placed it right into his hands at half-time. Metters took the field with 10 men, as their left-half (G. MacDonald) pulled a muscle in his leg.

So the Dominoes with 5 goals to nil against them and a gap in Metters' half-back line, made them all the more determined and, battling hard, they eventually found the net twice. Metters, being hard pressed, made a big mistake by crowding their goal area and not giving their keeper a chance to see the ball. With about two minutes to go, a fast driving shot from the Moorabbin left-wing beat Hall all the way. So the game ended with a win to Metters, 5 goals to 3, and a game effort by the Moorabbin boys the way they reduced the margin after being 5 goals behind.

LEAGUE TABLES AS AT APRIL 29, 1950

First Division										First Division Reserves									
P W D L F A P										P W D L F A P									
Goals										Goals									
Box Hill	5	4	1	0	21	8	9			Park Rangers	6	5	0	1	22	9	10		
South Yarra	6	4	1	1	12	7	9			Sandringham City	6	4	1	1	13	7	9		
Sunshine United	6	4	0	2	14	9	8			Prahran	6	4	0	2	18	8	8		
Sandringham City	6	3	2	1	12	9	8			Brighton	6	3	2	1	17	13	8		
Brighton	6	2	2	2	14	13	6			South Yarra	6	3	1	2	13	15	7		
Prahran	6	3	0	3	16	17	6			Sunshine United	6	2	2	2	15	13	6		
Park Rangers	6	2	0	4	9	10	4			Box Hill	5	2	0	3	8	12	4		
Footscray City	6	1	1	4	11	19	3			Hakoah	5	2	0	3	9	14	4		
Moreland	6	1	1	4	8	17	3			Moreland	6	1	0	5	14	23	2		
Hakoah	5	1	0	4	6	14	2			Footscray City	6	0	0	6	7	22	0		
Second Division										Second Division Reserves									
South Melbourne	6	5	0	1	31	12	10			Yallourn	6	6	0	0	42	4	12		
Juventus	6	4	1	1	20	8	9			Preston	6	4	1	1	18	8	9		
Yallourn	6	4	1	1	34	14	9			West Suburbs	5	3	0	2	24	15	6		
Preston	6	4	0	2	26	12	8			Juventus	5	3	0	2	13	15	6		
West Suburbs	4	2	0	2	17	9	4			South Melbourne	5	2	1	2	11	7			
George Cross	3	2	0	1	4	6	4			Heidelberg	5	2	0	3	5	26			
Ringwood	6	2	0	4	15	25	4			George Cross	3	1	0	2	4	7	2		
Yarraville	5	2	0	3	6	26	4			Melbourne University	4	1	0	3	3	20	2		
Melbourne University	4	0	0	4	3	15	0			Ringwood	5	1	0	4	0	11	2		
Heidelberg	6	0	0	6	5	34	0			Yarraville	4	0	0	4	1	8	0		
Third Division (North)										Third Division Reserves									
White Eagles	5	5	0	0	34	5	10			Olympic	4	3	0	1	26	3	6		
Fifers	6	5	0	1	20	11	10			Williamstown	2	2	0	0	10	4	4		
Geelong Celtic	5	3	1	1	18	9	7			Woodlands	4	2	0	2	9	14	4		
Melbourne Rangers	5	3	0	2	18	13	6			Coburg	1	0	0	1	3	4	0		
Williamstown	6	3	0	3	5	19	6			Fifer	3	0	0	3	1	26	0		
Coburg	5	2	0	3	10	17	4			Moorabbin	1	0	0	1	0	8	0		
Royal Caledonians	4	1	0	3	8	12	2												
Woodlands	6	1	0	5	12	33	2												
International Harvester	3	0	1	2	6	7	1												
South Yarra	3	0	0	3	1	4	0												
Third Division (South)										Results not received for the following matches:—									
J U S T	6	5	1	0	41	3	11			Second Division Reserves:									
Flinders Naval Depot	6	5	1	0	23	3	11			Heidelberg v South Melbourne.									
Victoria Police	6	4	0	2	16	10	8			Ringwood v Juventus.									
Moorabbin	6	3	1	2	26	9	7			Third Division (North):									
Olympic	5	3	0	2	12	7	6			Royal Caledonians v White Eagles.									
Park Rangers	6	2	0	4	18	22	4			International Harvester v Coburg.									
Bentleigh	6	2	0	4	15	28	4			Third Division Reserves:									
Box Hill	6	2	0	4	6	24	4			Moorabbin v Fifers.									
Brighton	6	1	1	4	16	30	3												
Macedonians																			
Withdrawn from Division.																			

JUNIOR AMATEUR LEAGUE TABLES AS AT APRIL 29, 1950

Under 19 "A" Section											Under 16 Division										
P W D L F A P											P W D L F A P										
South Yarra	5	5	0	0	15	4	10				Northcote	6	6	0	0	18	3	12			
Box Hill	5	3	1	1	9	3	7				Brighton	6	5	0	1	19	7	10			
Sunshine United	5	3	1	1	16	6	7				South Melb. United	6	3	2	1	11	5	8			
Army Apprentices	4	2	1	1	6	10	5				Sandringham City	6	4	0	2	13	10				
Brighton	4	2	0	2	15	6	4				Box Hill	6	3	1	1	15	7				
Sandringham City	5	1	1	3	7	14	3				Park Rangers	6	3	0	3	8	11				
Park Rangers	5	1	0	4	3	28	2				South Yarra	6	2	0	4	4	18	4			
Hakoah	5	0	0	5	0	0	0				Ringwood	6	1	0	5	8	18	2			
											Sunshine United	6	1	0	5	2	11	2			
											Preston	6	0	1	5	3	11	1			
Under 19 "B" Section											Under 14 Division										
P W D L F A P											P W D L F A P										
Yallourn	5	5	0	0	15	2	10				Western Suburbs	5	5	0	0	20	4	10			
Preston	6	4	0	2	23	5	8				Box Hill	5	4	1	0	15	3	9			
Coburg	6	3	1	2	13	10	7				Sunshine United	6	3	2	1	22	7	8			
South Melbourne United	6	3	0	3	17	8	6				Coburg	6	4	0	2	18	13	8			
Ringwood	5	3	0	2	11	12	6				Sth. Melb. United "A"	6	3	1	2	18	7	7			
Juventus	5	2	1	2	17	13	5				Park Rangers	5	3	0	2	28	4	6			
Yarraville	5	1	3	1	8	9	5				Sandringham City	5	2	1	2	8	9	5			
Moorabbin	6	2	1	3	15	17	5				Preston	6	2	1	3	18	23	5			
Metters	6	1	2	3	9	23	4				Bentleigh	6	2	0	4	7	12	4			
Northcote	6	0	0	6	4	33	0				Brighton	6	2	0	4	10	19	4			
											Sth. Melb. United "B"	6	1	0	5	3	19	2			
											Highett N.F.	6	0	0	6	2	49	0			

NOTE: Park Rangers awarded walk-over against Hakoah on April 29th.